

# Committee on Ways and Means

## Summary of Major Changes to H.R. 2971 - the *Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2003* (Compared with H.R. 2036 in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress)

### **Prohibition on sale, purchase, and display of SSNs in public and private sectors**

- Expands authority for U.S. Attorney General to provide for SSN sale, purchase and display in the public and private sectors when appropriate. The Attorney General, in issuing regulations, must consider the costs and benefits to the public, government, and businesses, and impose restrictions and conditions to prevent fraud, deception, crime, or harm to individuals.
- Excludes the SSNs of those who are deceased from public/private sector prohibitions on sale and display of SSNs.
- Modifies definitions of sale/purchase to exclude providing the SSN as part of employee benefit administration.

### **Prohibition on SSN appearing on employee ID cards and tags**

- Adds family members to the prohibition (e.g. military wives).
- Extends to the private sector.
- Applies to all employee IDs, including those related to employee benefits.

### **Enforcement**

- Adds criminal and civil penalties for individuals who sell their own legitimate SSN to another and for SSA employees who fraudulently sell or transfer SSNs.
- Provides enhanced criminal penalties for SSN misuse for repeat offenders and misuse associated with drug trafficking, crimes of violence, and terrorism.
- Deletes provision on judicial restitution (provision was included in the *Social Security Protection Act of 2003*, H.R. 743).

### **New Provisions**

- Enumeration at Birth (EAB): Commissioner will improve process to prevent assignment of SSNs to unnamed children, issuance of multiple SSNs to the same child, and other opportunities for fraudulently obtaining a SSN. Commissioner will study the most efficient options for insuring the integrity of the EAB process, including methods for reconciling hospital birth records with birth registrations submitted to State and local agencies and with information provided to the Commissioner as part of EAB.
- Study on requiring photo ID for SSN and benefit applications, and any reasonable exceptions that might be needed.
- Restricts replacement SSN cards.
- Requires Commissioner to study methods of modifying the SSN of persons who are not citizens or permanent residents of the United States to reflect either lack of authorization to work or limitations on authorization to work.